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PENCE SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE REPRESENTATION DURING CATASTROPHIC
Bill Ensures Continuity of Elected Government

Washington, Apr 22, 2004 — Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence today voted for the Continuity in Representation Act, a bill that will preserve the people’s right to elected representation in the event that a large portion of the House membership is ever incapacitated by a terrorist attack or other tragic event. The bill passed by a vote of 306 to 97. Pence’s statement on the bill follows:

“This topic is not theoretical to me or to my family, or to anyone who was here on September 11. I stood on the Capitol lawn that morning, saw the smoke rising from the Pentagon, and scarcely one month later I was informed by security officials that anthrax spores were found on my desk, and exposed to my staff and my family.

“And while I pray that our nation and this Congress will never experience similar events with catastrophic effects on this institution, we must prepare for the possibility. This legislation does that.

“By ensuring the continuity of this Congress, we will guarantee that the people’s House will be available to meet the people’s needs in their most troubled hour.”

Background:

The Continuity in Representation Act will preserve the people’s right to elected representation.

The bill provides for the expedited special election of new members to fill seats left vacant when

the Speaker of the House announces vacancies in the House exceeding 100 seats, as could occur following a devastating terrorist attack in Washington, D.C. Such special elections must occur within 45 days, unless a regularly scheduled general election for the office involved is to be held within 75 days.

Within 10 days of such an announcement by the Speaker, the political parties of the state may each nominate one candidate to run in the election.

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